

Guidelines for OVHA Coverage

ITEM: HUMIDIFIERS

DEFINITION: A device that adds humidity to the air taken in by an individual.

GUIDELINES: This device may be considered for a beneficiary who:

- Has a history of deviated septum AND/OR significant chronic sinus problems such as sinusitis or rhinitis OR
- Is using a CPAP or BiPAP device under the guidelines for that device and under the orders of a physician who is an active Medicaid provider, with pressures equal to or exceeding 12 cm OR
- Is using oxygen under the orders of a physician who is an active Medicaid provider, with a flow of greater than 4L/min. OR
- Is using another respiratory device, such as an IPPB or ventilator, under the orders of a physician who is an active Medicaid provider.

APPLICABLE CODES:

E0550 Humidifier, durable, for extensive supplemental humidification during IPPB treatments or oxygen delivery.

E0555 Humidifier, durable, glass or autoclavable plastic bottle type, for use with regulator or flowmeter

E0560 Humidifier, durable, for supplemental humidification during IPPB treatment or oxygen delivery.

E0561 Humidifier, non-heated, used with positive airway pressure device.

E0565 Humidifier, heated, used with positive airway pressure device.

S8182 Humidifier, heated, used with ventilator, non-servo-controlled

S8183 Humidifier, heated, used with ventilator, dual servo-controlled with temperature monitoring

CAUTIONS: References note compliance gains, fewer side effects, and more refreshed sleep with CPAP when heated humidification was used. Less water was lost during respiration, and there was more humidity in the inspired air. Drying medications, age greater than 60 years, symptoms of chronic mucosa disease, and having had a previous uvulopalatopharyngoplasty are all risk factors that benefit from heated humidification with the use of CPAP.

Caution should be used regarding the care of humidifiers and the patients that the humidifiers are used with, as they can easily become contaminated with pathological bacteria.

Humidified gas carries both water and energy. Excess moisture and excess energy can both cause rapid airway dysfunction, including decrease in vital capacity, atelectasis, alteration in the ventilation/perfusion ratio, osmotic changes in mucosal cell function, alveolar flooding, heat-induced injury to the nasal or tracheal mucosa.

EXAMPLES OF DIAGNOSIS: Deviated septum, chronic rhinitis, sinusitis, and other sinus problems; users of CPAP or BiPAP such as individuals with sleep apnea; users of oxygen such as individuals with COPD.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

A current, complete Certificate of Medical Necessity.

Supportive documentation providing information on diagnosis, CPAP/BiPAP use with pressures >12 cm, oxygen use with a flow >4L/min., or use of an IPPB or ventilator.

REFERENCES:

Randerath WJ et al, Efficiency of cold Passover and heated humidification under continuous positive airway pressure. Eur Respir J 2002 Jul;20(1):183-6.

Massie CA et al, Effects of Humidification on Nasal Symptoms and Compliance in Sleep Apnea Patients Using Continuous Positive Airway Pressure. Chest 1999;116:403-308.

Rakotonananahary D, Predictive factors for the need for additional humidification during nasal continuous positive airway pressure therapy. Chest 2001 Feb;119(2):460-5.

Lindemann J et al, Intranasal temperature and humidity profile in patients with nasal septal perforation before and after surgical closure. Clin Otolaryngol 2001 Oct;26(5):433-7.

Houser, Steven M MD, Rhinology/Allergy pages: Epistaxis or Nose Bleeds. www.geocities.com.

The Nose and the Paranasal Sinuses, Columbia University College of P&S Complete Medical Home Guide. www.cpmcnet.columbia.edu.

Local Medical Review Policy, Region D DMERC, Cigna Health Care Medicare Administration. www.cignamedicare.com.

Respiratory Assist Devices, Palmetto GBA. www.palmettogba.com.

Sinusitis, Medical Encyclopedia, National Library of Medicine, www.nlm.nih.gov.

Pendleton N et al, Bacterial colonization of humidifier attachments on oxygen concentrators prescribed for long term oxygen therapy: a district review. Thorax. 1991 Apr; 46(4):257-8.

Campbell EJ, Subjective effects of humidification of oxygen for delivery by nasal cannula. A prospective study. Chest. 1988 Feb;93(2):289-93

Williams RB, The effects of excess humidity. Respir Care Clin N Am. 1998 Jun;4(2):215-28.

Peterson BD, Heated humidifiers. Structure and function. Respir Care Clin N AM. 1998 Jun;4(2):243-59.

Dr. Steven Gorman, pulmonologist, supplied the numeric criteria for the Guidelines listed above.

OVHA Director's signature:_____

Medical Director's signature: _____

Date:

Revision 1:

Revision 2:

Revision 3: